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**Washington Urban District Council**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1956**



**L. A. M. JOHNSTON,**  
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.




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# WASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

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## *Members of Council and Health Committee 1956*

### **Chairman of Council**

### **Chairman of Health Committee:**

Councillor W. TROTTER, B.E.M., J.P.

### **Great Usworth Ward**

Councillor A. BOYD, 1, Coverdale Avenue.

Councillor R. COATES, 14, Garsdale Avenue.

Councillor C. McILROY, 34, The Drive.

Councillor Mrs. E. THOMPSON, 6, The Drive.

### **Springwell Ward**

Councillor T. W. BOYD, 19, Kingsdale Avenue.

Councillor J. R. COXON, C.C., J.P., 5, Westfield Crescent.

### **Usworth Colliery Ward**

Councillor J. W. DRUMMOND, J.P., 40, Oxford Avenue.

Councillor J. GIBSON, 75, Tyne Gardens.

Councillor N. MURPHY, 8, Richardson Terrace.

Councillor R. McGLEN, Jnr., 68, The Oval.

Councillor W. OLDS, 40, Oxford Avenue.

### **Washington Ward**

Councillor C. HALL, 13, Urban Gardens.

Councillor G. HASKETT, 40, Havannah Terrace.

Councillor W. HASKETT, 11, Havannah Terrace.

Councillor Mrs. A. TEMPEST, 6, The Green.

### **Washington Station Ward**

Councillor M. ALLON, C.C., 4, Wear Terrace.

Councillor J. A. YOUNG, 11, Biddick Terrace.

Councillor G. GREEN, 6, The Poplars.

Councillor J. MURDOCK, 22, Grassmere Terrace.

Councillor H. PRICE, 22, Romney Avenue.

Area in acres—5,758 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1956—17,870.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Books—5,587.

Rateable Value—£137,093.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£519.

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## Public Health Officers of the Authority

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The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: Dr. L. A. M. Johnston.  
Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees  
of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: Mr. J. Mitchell. Whole  
time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Association  
and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other Foods. Also  
acts as Factory and Workshop Inspector, Shops Inspector,  
Cleansing Officer, Petroleum Officer and Rodent Control  
Officer.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: Mr. J. Scott.  
Whole time. Holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary  
Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other  
Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER: Mr. Crowe. Whole time.  
Associate Member Institution of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health also acts as Medical Officer to  
the Urban Districts of Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton, also as  
Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council for No. 5  
Area.

The County Council on behalf of the Government pay half  
the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health  
Inspectors.



Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Washington.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my sixth Annual Report on the vital statistics, sanitary conditions and health of the district, being for the year 1956. The report of your Public Health Inspector for that year is included.

Sincere apologies must be tendered for the delay in the issue of said report.

I should like to make comment here on some of the more important and interesting matters.

**Birth Rate** at 17.48 was slightly higher than in 1955 and definitely higher than that for England and Wales which was 15.7.

**Death Rate** at 13.06 was lower for the district than in 1955, but higher than that for England and Wales at 11.7.

**Infectious Diseases.** It is satisfactory to note that during 1956 only 69 cases of infectious diseases were notified compared with almost ten times that figure in 1955—viz: 670.

**Measles and Whooping Cough.** These two diseases which were epidemic in 1955 accounted for the divergence between the total cases of infectious diseases in 1955 and 1956.

In 1956 only 5 cases of measles and 21 of whooping cough were notified as against 492 measles and 142 whooping cough in 1955.

**Tuberculosis.** One regrets an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis as compared with the previous year there being 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 cases of non-pulmonary as compared with 11 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary in 1955. The figures for 1955, however, were unusually low and earlier diagnosis, thoroughness of investigation and supervision of close contacts is bringing an additional number for notification and treatment. This is of immense importance in preventing the spread of the disease and of great benefit to the patient. Early diagnosis means more rapid cure and the various drugs which have been discovered and brought into use during the post-war years have resulted in many complete cures—in some cases without the necessity for hospital treatment whilst in the remainder the duration of the stay in hospital has been considerably reduced. It is indeed satisfactory that many tuberculosis hospitals throughout the country are being closed for lack of patients and waiting lists for admission no longer exist.

**Scarlet Fever.** This disease now-a-days bears no semblance to the grave sickness at the beginning of the century and hospitalisation is no longer considered necessary apart from very exceptional circumstances. Quarantine of school children contacts is being dropped in most areas.

**Diphtheria.** Again there were no cases of diphtheria in this area.

The present generation of young parents have little first hand knowledge of this dread disease and must be continuously reminded of the importance of having their children immunised. Quite a number have had their children immunised by their own doctors who are able to combine this with protection against whooping cough. Like several Local Health Authorities in the country Durham County Council did not offer this combined protection to children immunised at the Child Welfare Centres during 1956.

**Anterior Poliomyelitis** (Infantile Paralysis).

As in 1955 there were two cases in the district, fortunately neither fatal. **Vaccination to prevent Poliomyelitis** was commenced in May, 1956, and closed down at the end of June. A limited number were treated in the last two months of the year but unfortunately the vaccine was available in quantities quite inadequate to cope with the demand. The chief reason for this was the extreme care taken in manufacture to ascertain that only an absolutely safe material was used. Washington is one of the areas where there was a very satisfactory number of applications for vaccination.

**Heart Disease.** 53 deaths were ascribed as being due to this cause a decrease of 7 on the previous year but the number of cases of coronary disease, quite a number of which are not fatal on the first attack, causes serious anxiety throughout the whole country. It is possible now-a-days for patients seen sufficiently soon to receive much more effective treatment than was possible only a few years ago.

**Cancer.** A satisfactory decrease in the death rate from cancer was apparent in 1956. It cannot be over-emphasised that early diagnosis and treatment of cancer means cure in many cases and now-a-days a very few types are in fact curable by drugs. The great thing is to get the disease in the early stage whilst it is localised and before its spread to various other organs.

**Housing.** It is pleasing to note that the number of houses erected during 1956, being 120, was more than double that of the previous year—56. Unfortunately, as in many parts of the country, the list of applicants for council houses increases more rapidly than the numbers erected and only the initial fringe of the slum clearance programme could be tackled.

**Welfare of the Aged.** The nine clubs for the “ Over 60's ” continued to function actively but one cannot fail to see that there is real scope for other Voluntary Services to help the elderly to have a more comfortable and pleasant life, to combat loneliness and in some instances such voluntary service is sufficient to enable the old folk to remain in their own homes instead of becoming permanently resident in hospital or hostel.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation and gratitude to Councillors and to my colleagues on the staff for their loyalty and assistance so readily forthcoming whenever required.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.



## Health Services

Administered by the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following Health Services are administered by Durham County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance.	Child Welfare and Maternity.
Home Nursing.	School Medical.
Home Helps.	Welfare of the Aged.
Preventive measures against Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and Tuberculosis.	Welfare of the Blind and Handicapped. Health Visitors.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS are appointed by, and work under the direction of, the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS are fully qualified men appointed by, and working under the direction of, the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for conducting routine examinations of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of health of said cows.

## Vital Statistics

### Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for outward and inward transfers) during 1956 was 336 compared with 327 for 1955.

Sex and Legitimacy are shown thus:—

		Total Male Female			
Live Births					
	Legitimate	327	162	165	} Giving a birth rate of 18.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population.
	Illegitimate	9	5	4	

To exactly compare the Birth Rate in Washington Urban District with that for England and Wales, as a whole, it must be multiplied by a comparability factor of 0.93 giving a rate of 17.484 as compared with 15.7 for England and Wales.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) for 1956 as compared with the years 1947-55.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1947	381	203	178	22.25	204
1948	395	195	200	22.52	218
1949	362	197	165	20.49	166
1950	325	160	165	18.29	163
1951	332	183	149	18.7	111
1952	302	158	144	17.06	102
1953	324	177	147	18.33	169
1954	312	170	142	17.59	108
1955	327	173	154	18.37	123
1956	336	167	169	18.8	163

### Still Births

During 1956 there were 7 still births in the district.

		Total Male Female			
Still Births					
	Legitimate	6	2	4	} Giving a Still Birth Rate of 20.4 per 1,000 Total (live and still births).
	Illegitimate	1	—	1	

There is a Still Birth Rate of 0.39 per 1,000 population in Washington U.D., as compared with 0.35 for England and Wales.

## **Deaths and Death Rate**

The Registrar General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 173 residents of the Washington area died during 1956, being 90 males and 83 females.

Locally compiled figures show that there were 117 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 61 males and 36 females. 3 persons died within the area during the period under consideration, who did not normally reside therein—there was therefore 3 outward transfers

56 persons, being 29 males and 27 females normally resident in the district died outside the area—there were therefore 56 inward transfers.

During 1956, 201 residents of Washington died, being 111 males and 90 females.

The death rate for 1956, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 9.68 for Washington U.D., compared with 11.29 in 1955.

In order to compare the local figure with that for England and Wales, the former must be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.35, giving a Death Rate for Washington of 13.06, whilst that for England and Wales is 11.7.

## **Total Deaths under 5 years (corrected locally)**

During 1956 9 children died before attaining the age of five years as compared with 13 in 1955. 8 children, being 4 male and 4 females were under one year of age.

Therefore 5.2% of the total deaths were of children under five years of age as compared with 6.47% in 1955.

## **Deaths in Institutions**

Of the 56 residents who died outside the area, 54 died in hospital and 2 in private homes.

## **Maternal Mortality**

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis, pregnancy or abortion.

### Comparisons between England and Wales and Washington

The maternal mortality per 1,000 total live and still births based on deaths which are primarily classed as due to diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state is shown in the following table.

				England and Wales		Washington Urban District	
				Nos.	Rate	Nos.	Rate
Maternal Causes, excluding							
abortion	...	...	...	330	0.46	0	.000
Due to abortion	...	...	...	71	0.10	—	—
Total Maternal Mortality	...			401	0.56	0	.000

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year

During 1956 there were 8 children, being 4 legitimate male and 4 legitimate females who died in the area before attaining the age of one year. This is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 23.8 per 1,000 live births, being the same as that for England and Wales.

In 1956 there were 12 children who died under one year of age, yielding an Infantile Mortality Rate of 35.5 (per 1,000 total births).

The following table shows the death rates for infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1947-1956.

	All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	
1947	...	41.99	...	40.65	...	83.33
1948	...	50.66	...	63.60	...	166.66
1949	...	52.49	...	53.98	..	0.00
1950	...	30.77	...	30.91	..	0.00
1951	...	42.17	...	43.81	...	0.00
1952	...	19.86	...	20.54	...	0.00
1953	...	37.03	...	37.97	...	0.00
1954	...	16.02	...	15.57	...	0.00
1955	...	36.69	...	35.5	...	0.00
1956	...	23.8	...	23.3	...	0.00



The following table shows in detail the number and causes of deaths in infants during the first year of life and also the deaths at the various ages.

**Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1956**

Cause of Death	Ages of Children					Total
Broncho Pneumonia: 2 months; 2 months ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity: 25 minutes; 25 minutes; 8 hours; 3 weeks ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Neonatal Sepsis: 1 week ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intestinal obstruction: 5 months ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
						8
						—

Since the total deaths in the district at all ages was 173 then 4.62% of the total were children under 1 year of age. Of these infants 50% were 1 week old or younger.

The distribution of deaths (at all ages and corrected for inward and outward transfers) in the various wards is shown in the following table:—

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Great Usworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	9	2	3	6	6	7	21	16
Usworth Colliery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	5	5	5	7	8	2	20	15
Washington	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	6	6	3	6	17	16
Washington Station	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	7	6	6	9	12	26	27
Springwell	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	2	...	3	3	7	8
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Total</i>	4	4	...	1	...	...	3	1	4	2	29	19	22	25	29	30	91	82



# Causes of Death in Washington Urban District during 1956

Causes of Death.				Male		Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	...	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	...	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	...	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	...	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	...	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	...	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	...	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	...	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	4	...	8
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	—	...	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	...	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	17	...	14
18.	Coronary disease angina	...	...	10	...	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	...	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	6	...	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	5	...	10
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	...	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	3	...	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	11	...	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	...	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	...	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	1	...	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	3	...	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	...	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	...	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	...	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	...	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	...	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	...	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	...	—
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	...	—
All Causes				90	...	83

## Causes of Death

## Tuberculosis

There was 1 death from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1956, being equivalent to a death rate of .056 per 1,000 population from the pulmonary form and 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.
1947	9	.47	.525	3	.079	.175
1948	10	.44	.570	1	.067	.570
1949	9	.403	.509	2	.054	.113
1950	5	.321	.281	1	.043	.056
1951	2	.275	.113	3	.041	.164
1952	6	.212	.339	1	.028	.056
1953	5	.179	.283	0	.022	.000
1954	1	.160	.056	0	.019	.000
1955	2	.145	.112	0	.015	.000
1956	1	.109	.056	0	.012	.000

## Heart Disease and Disease of the Circulatory System

This includes:—				Males	Females
Coronary Disease — Angina	...	...	...	10	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	6	11
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	5	10
Total				21	32
				—	—

Therefore in 1956 there were 53 deaths due to the above-named causes—that is 30.64 of the total deaths or a death rate of 2.96 per 1,000 population. The percentage of total deaths in 1955 was 29.85 and the death rate 3.37.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease	Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			All Causes	Heart Disease	
1947	177	37	10.34	2.16	20.90
1948	177	46	10.09	2.62	25.99
1949	196	55	11.09	3.11	28.07
1950	162	42	9.12	2.36	25.92
1951	221	61	12.47	3.44	27.6
1952	200	53	11.29	2.99	26.55
1953	155	48	8.77	2.72	31.0
1954	204	72	11.51	4.06	35.29
1955	201	60	11.29	3.37	29.85
1956	173	53	9.68	2.9	30.64

### Cancer

This includes all malignant growths and diseases.

During 1956 there were 27 deaths certified as being due to malignant growths, being 12 males and 15 females. Of these 5 were due to cancer of lungs and bronchi and 7 to cancer of stomach, 2 breast, 1 uterus and 12 to other malignant growths.

	England and Wales	Washington Urban District
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		
cancer, lungs and bronchi	0.407	.279
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		
other cancer ... ..	1.668	1.23

The following table shows the number of deaths in the area due to cancer and the mortality rate from this disease in 1956 compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.	
	Male		Female		Total		
1946	...	14	...	15	...	29	1.76
1947	...	15	...	8	...	23	1.35
1948	..	15	...	9	...	24	1.37
1949	...	15	...	15	...	30	1.69
1950	...	6	...	8	...	14	0.79
1951	...	10	...	11	...	21	1.19
1952	...	21	...	12	...	33	1.86
1953	...	12	...	11	...	23	1.30
1954	...	18	...	19	...	37	2.08
1955	...	24	...	21	...	45	2.528
1956	...	12	...	15	...	27	1.15

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

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### Water Supply

The Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., supply the Urban District with water.

The supply of water to the district is satisfactory in quality. The quantity is being carefully observed and further progress has been made with the increase to the bulk supply to the district, materials having been delivered.

No treatment is installed in the supply system within the Urban District. The taking of samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis are carried out by the companies involved.

The waters do not appear to have plumbo-solvent action.

Samples of main supply water taken during the year gave satisfactory results, there being no evidence of contamination.

All the dwelling-houses within the Urban District are supplied from public water mains by the method herewith tabulated:—

(1). Direct to houses ... ..	5,456
(2) By means of tap in yard or wash-house	131
	<hr/>
	5,587
	<hr/>

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewage of the district is discharged into the River Wear at three points, one near Barmston Forge and two at Washington Staithes. The waste matter at Barmston only is treated in settlement tanks before being allowed to flow into the river. The settlement tanks were cleansed during September, 1954. The need for new sewage disposal works is recognised and is under consideration.



## Rivers and Streams

Favourable reports as to the condition of the various water-courses in the district were received during the past year.

## Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year the various types in use within the Urban District were as follows:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Water Closets ...	5,900	6,087	6,243	6,291	6,408
Ash Closets ...	25	26	12	12	11
Chemical Closets	6	6	6	6	6

## Household Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal

The collection and disposal of household refuse was carried out as during previous years by direct labour, with some ten isolated houses being controlled by contract.

The personnel included three foremen/drivers and twelve loaders. Two salvage sorters were employed at Shop Houses salvage depot.

A foreman-driver with four loaders man each of three ten cubic yard Dennis vehicles. The newer of the three being Diesel driven while the other two are petrol driven.

A service varying from four to seven days was maintained during the year to the community.

The number of dwelling-houses, shops, and other premises dealt with totalled 5,757 an increase of 84 compared with 5,673 in 1955.

Test weights of loaded vehicles were taken during the year and together with information returned in daily time sheets by the foremen it was calculated that approximately 9,830 tons was collected for disposal, while the calls made for that purpose totalled 342,880.

Disposal of refuse during the year was as follows:—

Swinburn's Tip .....	7,236 tons.
Biddick Tip .....	2,431 tons.
Other Agricultural Land .....	163 tons.

Salvage during the year was mainly confined to the collection of paper. Approximately 128 tons of paper was collected and after sorting 92 tons were returned to industry for re-pulping.

	£	s.	d.
The expenditure of the combined services=			
£10,226/9/3, including labour, etc. ... ..	9,122	12	7
Maintenance of tips (2) ... ..	114	15	11
Maintenance of vehicles ... ..	970	17	6
Loss on sale of ash bins ... ..	18	3	3
Income from refuse collection ... ..	35	12	0
Income from salvage collection... ..	623	17	3
Annual cost of services during the year was ... ..	9,567	0	0

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

#### (a) Number and Nature of Inspection.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	2547
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ... ..	7
„ Bakehouses ... ..	14
„ Factories and Workshops ... ..	17
„ Work in progress ... ..	79
„ Food premises ... ..	129
„ Pig-keepers' premises ... ..	8
„ Shops ... ..	47
Visits made in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises ... ..	43
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures	3
Visits and re-visits to premises in connection with Rodent Control ... ..	283
	<hr/>
	3177
	<hr/>

**Shops Act**

47 inspections of shops were made during the year and in 2 cases improvements were carried out by informal action, viz:—

2 cases of repair to W.C. compartments.

**Smoke Abatement**

In this Urban area the need to take action is not deemed necessary.

**Swimming Baths**

There are no Swimming baths in the district.

**Rat Infestation**

During the year maintenance treatments for rats within the area were carried out as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division. A summary of the work entailed on surface infestations is given in the following table:

Premises.	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (incl. Business and Industrial)	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	* 65	5379	50	653	6147
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as result (a) of notification (b) survey (c) otherwise. ...	(a) 7 (b) 9 (c) 12	44 237 325	3 11 21	4 25 185	58 282 543
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats ...	1 (Major) 4 (Minor)	.... 13	.... 2	.... 3	.... 22
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice ...	4	39	....	5	48
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	9	52	2	8	71
6. Number of notices served under Section 4— (1) Treatment ...	....	....	....	1	1
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ...	....	....	....	....	...
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notices under Section 4 ...	....	...	....	....	....
8. Legal Proceedings	....	....	....	....	....
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	Five				

\* Figures given as per Valuation Roll on 31st December, 1956.

At the end of the year 11 farms were on contract to the County Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats, and action was taken on 4 premises following informal notice, 1 Block treatment was completed with the co-operation of the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

**(b) Number of Notices served and complied with**

	Number of informal Notices Served	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses { Structural Def'ts	104	16	321
{ Foul Conditions	1	...	1
{ Overcrowding	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ... ..	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	...	...	...
Cowsheds ... ..	...	...	...
Bakehouses ... ..	3	...	3
Slaughter houses ... ..	3	...	3
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	3	...	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	1	...	1
Water Closets ... ..	26	2	25
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	5	...	7
House { Defective Traps	2	1	2
Drainage { No disconnection	...	...	...
{ from sewers	...	...	...
{ Other Faults	37	2	37
Water Supply ... ..	10	1	10
Pigsties ... ..	...	...	...
Animals Improperly Kept ... ..	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ... ..	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...
Ash Bins ... ..	101	6	20
Totals ... ..	296	28	533



## Housing

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	757
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	2547
(2) (a)	Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts ... ..	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	72
(4)	Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ..	175

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	50
--	--	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. ..	19
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners ... ..	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners...	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	9
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners ... ..	9
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

During the period under review 60 houses were erected and occupied within the Urban District, viz:—

Permanent houses by Local Authority ...	112
Houses built by Private Enterprise ...	5

#### 4. Overcrowding

In the Urban District overcrowding is much in evidence, more particularly with regard to houses overcrowded by reason of more than one family being in occupation.

The following is a Summary of the Permanent Dwelling-houses, including number of Apartments erected by the Local Authority up to December 31st, 1956.

Ward			Size of House or Type					Total
			2BR	3BR	P.T.	A.P.	S.P.	
Washington	...	...	107	167	23	20	—	317
Washington Station	...	...	42	229	10	28	—	309
Springwell	...	...	26	128	--	16	—	170
Usworth Colliery	...	...	287	182	38	—	—	507
Great Usworth	...	...	133	707	—	52	6	898
Total	...	...	595	1,413	71	116	6	2,201

The total number of Dwelling-houses under the control of the Urban District Council is tabulated herewith:—

Permanent	...	...	...	...	2,201
Temporary	...	...	...	...	237
Others	...	...	...	...	2

2,440

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1946	No. of Houses Erected 1946—1956 inclusive.														Total	
		Trad. Perm.	Temp. Prefabs	Perm. Non-Trad.	Traditional Permanent												
					1946-49	1947-8	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954		1955
Usworth ...	107																107
Village ...	42																42
Washington Station (A)	47																47
Washington Station 1924	18																18
Spout Lane	242						12										264
Aged Persons	80												10			8	88
Heworth Road	400																400
Grasmere	36																36
The Drive	214							28	11								253
Other Houses	2																2
Springwell						30	30										60
Falshaw Place			40														40
Usworth Green			60														60
Washington Station				52			21	41						58	12		184
Hostel Estate																	137
Blue House Lane			137						66	85	62	64					277
Oxford Avenue													77	98	44		219
Heugh Hill					94											112	94
Coach Road Estate																120	112
	1,188	237		52	94	30	51	69	89	85	62	64	87	156	56	120	2,440

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

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### (a) Milk Supply

Details of licensing under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1955, and the various Regulations made thereunder are given as follows:—

Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	3
Licensed to sell " T.T. " Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	...	...	...	2
Registered to sell " Sterilised " Milk	...	...	...	52

### (b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

Four licences were issued during the year with regard to premises for the slaughtering of animals. (Excluding horses) for human consumption.

Slaughterers licences were renewed to eighteen persons in the same period.

The following table is given showing inspections and condemnations:—

	Cattle	Cows	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	489	178	16	54
Number inspected	489	176	16	54
All cases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	45	32	2	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Disease other than T.B.	9.2%	15.5%	12.5%	1.8%
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned...	56	27	—	—
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis ...	11.4%	15.3%	—	—

Unsound foodstuffs, involving the issue of 161 certificates, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year, and included the following:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	85 lbs.
Tinned meat and meat food products						228 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...		138 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...		237 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...		2 lbs.
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...		33 tins
Other Foods	...	...	...	...		27 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.

**(c) Ice Cream**

Number of Producers registered	...	...	2
Number of Retailers registered	...	...	34



**FACTORIES ACT, 1937 — Part 1 of the Act**

**1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	7	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	20	6	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	4	...	...
Total	46	31	6	...

**2.—Cases in which Defects were found.**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Pro-se-cutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :					
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ..	2	1	...	1	...
Not separate for sexes ...	3	2	...	2	...
Other offences (Not including offences relat-ing to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	4	...	3	...

**Notifiable Disease during the year 1956**

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases are shown in the following table.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	15	5	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Enteric. F. (incl. Paratyphoid) ...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Menigitis ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	7	3	6
Ophthalmia Noenatorum ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	5	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	21	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	1	1	...
Food Poisoning ... ..	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	51	11	6

The following table shows certain important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the incidence of each disease in every ward, the number of cases of each disease removed to hospital other than tuberculosis and the rate per thousand population for each.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1956—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths	No. per 1000 Population.			
	At Ages—Years											Washington	Wash. Station	Usworth Col.	Great Usworth	Springwell				Total		
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65										65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	1	...	...	...	15	4	6	...	...	2	15	5	...	0.84
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	4	4	2	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	3	18	...	...	...	21	...	...	1.176
Measles	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	0.28
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	0.112
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	0.056
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	4	4	2	6	26	2	1	12	1	5	3	69	13	32	69	32	9	69	32	6	2.626

### Prevention of Blindness

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

### New Cases of Tuberculosis during 1956

The following table shows the notification of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex for the year 1956, compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1946	6	11	17	1	2	3
1947	3	6	9	7	1	8
1948	15	6	21	4	—	4
1949	11	6	17	4	2	6
1950	5	15	20	1	2	3
1951	9	9	18	3	2	5
1952	12	12	24	2	2	4
1953	14	4	18	1	—	1
1954	11	15	26	1	1	2
1955	2	9	11	1	—	1
1956	8	7	15	1	2	3

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1956, according to sex and ward incidence.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Washington	1	2	....	....	3
Washington Station	3	....	1	....	4
Usworth Colliery	2	1	....	1	4
Great Usworth	....	1	....	1	2
Springwell	2	3	....	....	5
Totals ...	8	7	1	2	18

The following table shows the various age periods for males and females at which the new cases were notified and the age of those who died from tuberculosis.



Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	„	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	„	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	„	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	„	1	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	„	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	„	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	„	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...		8	7	1	2	1	—	—	—

### Occupation

The occupations of those who were notified during 1956 as sufferers from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis were as follows:—

Pulmonary: 1 retired miner, 1 factory worker, 2 housewives, 1 school child, 1 shop assistant and 3 unknown, 2 miners, 1 civil servant, 1 labourer, 1 Royal Navy, 1 retired council labourer.

Non-Pulmonary: 1 schoolchild, and 2 not known.

### Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases

2 meninges, 1 bones and joints.

### Examination of Sputa

Specimens of Sputa sent by the family doctor or other medical practitioner are examined free at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit which has been operating in the County for some years has helped in the detection of early cases of Tuberculosis which to a certain extent may account for increase in notifications. The early diagnosis is of the utmost importance in getting speedy cures with a greatly shortened time of incapacity from work and a tremendous reduction in the danger of infectivity to other persons.







